

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON:EW

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

AF:WESCHAUFLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 279529

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, CG, SF

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO
MOBUTU:

2. "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: MINDFUL OF YOUR STRONG CONTINUING
INTEREST IN OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO
THE PROBLEMS OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE
YOU MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THOSE EFFORTS.

3. "IN SPITE OF A SLOW BEGINNING, THE CONFERENCE IN
GENEVA SHOULD SOON BE GETTING DOWN TO THE SERIOUS TASK OF
WORKING OUT THE DETAILS OF A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. IT
APPEARED FOR A WHILE THAT THE CONFERENCE MIGHT BECOME SIDE-
TRACKED OVER THE ISSUE OF AN INDEPENDENCE DATE AND THE
LENGTH OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD, EVEN THOUGH THE MOST
IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS TO GET THE TRANSITION STARTED.
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRANSITIONAL-GOVERNMENT IS THE STEP

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THAT WILL CONSTITUTE AN IRREVERSIBLEBREAK WITH THE PAST.

ONCE THE POWERS PRESENTLY EXERCISED BY THE SMITH REGIME HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO IT, THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT CAN ASSURE THE EARLY ACHIEVEMENT OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT NEED FOR VIOLENCE.

"WHILE MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN GENEVA ARE STILL INCLINED TO STATE THEIR MAXIMUM POSITIONS IN PUBLIC, THERE ARE INDICATIONS FROM THE MANY BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE AT THE CONFERENCE THAT THE DELEGATES DO WANT THE NEGOTIATIONS TO SUCCEED AND ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER COMPROMISE.

5. "THE BRITISH ARE AWARE OF THE GROWING FEELING THAT THEY MUST PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. THUS WHILE IT IS CLEAR FROM THEIR OWN STATEMENTS THAT THEY WILL NOT ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR DIRECT ADMINISTRATION NOR SEND ANY TROOPS THERE, THEY MAY BE WILLING TO ESTABLISH SOME SORT OF REPRESENTATION IN SALISBURY DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. THE NATURE OF THEIR PRESENCE WOULD APPARENTLY DEPEND UPON THE DETAILS OF THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE INFLUENCED BY THE DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA.

6. "WE BELIEVE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING AT THIS STAGE IS FOR THE CONFERENCE DELEGATES TO KEEP AT THE BASIC TASK OF SEARCHING FOR AGREEMENT ON THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO ASSIST THEIR EFFORTS AND TO SUPPORT ANY ARRANGEMENTS THE PARTIES FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE.

7. "I WISH I COULD REPORT AS MUCH ACTIVITY ON THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE. LAST MONTH, I DISCUSSED WITH MR. NUJOMA IN NEW YORK THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN SIDE, AND HE PROMISED TO GIVE ME HIS CONSIDERED VIEWS REGARDING PROPOSED NEXT STEPS AFTER HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIS PARTY COLLEAGUES AND OTHERS IN AFRICA. WE ARE STILL WAITING TO HEAR FROM HIM, BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT THE TIMING AND MODALITIES FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE CAN BE NEGOTIATED VERY QUICKLY IF THE PARTIES CAN GET OVER CERTAIN PROCE-

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DURAL INHIBITIONS. WE CAN DO LITTLE MORE AT PRESENT, BUT WE STAND READY TO ASSIST IN MOVING THE MATTER ON TO THE NEXT STAGE AS SOON AS THIS IS POSSIBLE.

8. "I REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT THERE ARE OTHER MATTERS OF A BILATERAL AND REGIONAL NATURE THAT ARE OF EQUAL CONCERN TO YOU, BUT I HOPE THAT RECENT ACTIONS IN THIS CONNECTION HAVE BEEN HELPFUL. THE UNITED STATES REMAINS

DETERMINED TO BE AS SUPPORTIVE AS POSSIBLE IN CONTRIBUTING
TO THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE REGION AS WELL AS
THAT OF THE COUNTRIES IN IT.

9. "THE PERSONAL LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT WHICH YOU HAVE
CONTRIBUTED TO REALISTIC POLICIES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA CONTINUE TO BE MUCH APPRECIATED. I HOPE YOU WILL
CONTINUE TO AFFORD US YOUR OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS
ABOUT THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE DISCUSSED. I SEND WARM
PERSONAL REGARDS. SINCERELY, HENRY A. KISSINGER." KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, INDEPENDENCE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, PROGRESS REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 11/13/76
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE279529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBEDMONDSON:EW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840084-0126
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761151/aaaabrpl.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by woolfhd>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU
TAGS: PFOR, PSDC, PDEV, RH, CG, SF, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (MOBUTU SESE SEKO)
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006